

# Monthly Weather Report

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### February, 1950 - Unsettled and very wet.

The weather was unsettled and wet, exceptionally so in England and Wales. It was mild in the south but rather cold in the north, while sunshine was abundant in the north and considerably below the average in the south-west.

The morning of the 1st was cold, with low minimum temperatures. Thereafter a deep depression was centred south-east of Greenland, while troughs or secondary depressions passed across or near the British Isles causing frequent and heavy rainfall. The main depression moved little but became less deep. On the 6th another deep depression in mid-Atlantic moved to south-west Iceland and on the 7th a trough of low pressure crossed the British Isles giving further rain or showers. Subsequently new disturbances developed over the Atlantic and associated troughs crossing this country caused more precipitation which was heavy locally at times. On the 11th a depression moved eastward over Scotland and on the 12th and 13th another disturbance crossed Ireland and England; rain occurred daily in most areas. From the 13th-16th the Azores anticyclone moved east to the western Mediterranean and central Europe, while another Atlantic depression moved north-east and troughs or small secondary depressions affected conditions in the British Isles; mild weather with heavy local rain prevailed. On the 17th a depression off south-west Ireland moved north-east to the south of Norway and further heavy rain occurred in Scotland. The frequent heavy rains of the first sixteen or seventeen days caused considerable flooding in some districts. Much of England came under the influence of the continental anticyclone from the 15th-18th and experienced a mainly dry spell so that the floods subsided there. Further rain occurred, however, on the 19th and 20th with the passage of a depression across England to Denmark.

Subsequently high pressure became established over France with a wedge extending over England and a short spell of mainly fair weather occurred, but still more rain on the 23rd was associated with a trough which moved across England and Wales.

On the 24th and 25th a depression off south-west Ireland moved south-east and then east across northern France, and colder north-east to north winds prevailed; moderate amounts of snow fell in some northern districts and smaller amounts in the south-east. A ridge of high pressure followed which dominated the weather in eastern and midland districts until the end of the month with keen to hard night frosts at many places.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure was below the average generally, the deviation at 9h. ranging from  $-10.2$  mb. at Eskdalemuir and Tynemouth to  $-7.1$  mb. at Lympne. Winds from between south and west predominated and gales occurred frequently in some areas, particularly at exposed stations in the south-west; they were recorded on 14 days at Lizard and 11 days at St. Ann's Head. The stormiest periods were the 1st-5th, 8th-18th and 28th. The gale on the 2nd was very severe; a mean hourly velocity of 58 knots was registered at Pendennis. Among the highest gusts recorded in knots were 90 at Pendennis and 80 at Plymouth on the 2nd, 79 at Scilly on the 8th and 73 at Durham on the 16th.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature appreciably exceeded the average in England and Wales but was less than the average in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The deviations for the districts ranged from  $-1.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ . in Scotland, N. to  $+3.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ . in England, S.E. The warmest period generally was the 15th-18th or 19th. Low minimum temperatures occurred on the 1st and 26th-28th, while low

day temperatures were registered over much of the country except the extreme south on the 24th and 25th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales)  $63^{\circ}\text{F}$ . in London (Kensington and Regents Park), Wealdstone and Pinner on the 17th,  $12^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Bellingham on the 1st; (Scotland)  $56^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Aberdeen, Dyce, St. Andrews and North Berwick on the 16th and at Greenock on the 17th,  $6^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Glenlivet on the 27th; (Northern Ireland)  $60^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Lisburn on the 16th,  $18^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Aldergrove on the 26th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 220 over England and Wales, 127 over Scotland and 117 over Northern Ireland. In England and Wales, apart from the record wet February of 1923, it was the wettest in a record going back to 1869, although February 1937 was practically as wet. Somewhat less than the average rainfall was confined to a few places in the extreme north of Scotland and an area covering much of County Antrim and extending over a part of south-west Scotland. The frequent heavy rains of the first 16 or 17 days caused considerable flooding in some areas. In Scotland thawing snow, added to the heavy downpours of the 16th and 17th, caused flooding in western, central and border districts.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

- 1st 2.43 in. at Treherbert (Glamorgan) and 2.35 in. at Ashburton (Devon).
- 2nd 2.29 in. at Borrowdale and 2.18 in. at Cricket St. Thomas (Somerset).
- 9th 2.70 in. at Lake Vyrnwy (Montgomery) and 2.60 in. at Snowdon.
- 16th 3.72 in. at Conaglen (Argyllshire) and 3.70 in. at Glenquoich (Inverness-shire).
- 17th 3.93 in. at Kinlochourn (Inverness-shire).

Thunderstorms occurred fairly frequently particularly in western districts, mainly on the 2nd-4th, 7th-13th, 15th and 18th. The storms of the 10th and 11th were accompanied by heavy hail locally in the south-west.

Snow or sleet occurred frequently in Scotland; snow blocked many roads there at the beginning of the month and there were moderate falls on the 8th. On the 25th moderate falls of snow fell in some northern districts of the British Isles and smaller amounts in the south-east.

**Sunshine.**—The duration of sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1906-35 average was 103 over England and Wales, 134 over Scotland and 98 over Northern Ireland. Sunshine was abundant in Scotland, particularly on or near the east coast where Craibstone had its sunniest February since records began in 1925. In the north of England also it was sunnier than usual but in Wales and south-west England it was mainly dull. The deviations for the districts ranged from 72 in south-west England and south Wales to 137 in east Scotland. The mean daily duration ranged from 4 hours or slightly more locally on or near the east coast of Scotland to less than 1.5 hours locally inland in south Wales.

**Fog.**—Fog occurred locally at times, mainly on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 9th, 10th, 19th, 21st-24th, 27th and 28th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 9 nights. The display on the night of the 20th-21st was widely observed in the British Isles. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 16 days.